

## Department of Defense Civil Defense Division

## **News Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HURRICANE AND TSUNAMI EVACUATION SURVEY TO BE RELEASED FOR MAUI COUNTY

**Honolulu-** A survey asking Maui, Molokai, and Lanai residents about actions they would take during a hurricane or tsunami will be mailed to randomly selected households in June. The survey is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Civil Defense and will be conducted by a private company, SMS Research. Survey results will be used in preparedness and response planning for hurricanes, tsunami events, and other hazards.

Families, care home operators, homeless shelter operators, and hotels may receive phone calls and mailers regarding this survey. Participation is voluntary but encouraged by Civil Defense officials. "Having a better idea of what people will do during an emergency will improve evacuation and emergency shelter plans," according to Major General Robert G. F. Lee, Director of Civil Defense. "Data gathered in this survey could help in deciding number of shelter spaces and give first responders and shelter managers a better idea of what to expect."

"It's important that our residents participate in this survey," said Maui County Mayor Charmaine Tavares. "It's one way that we can become better prepared, and the results will go a long way should a disaster impact our islands. Planning for our county's disaster response and recovery needs is more effective when there's information available that is specific to our neighborhoods."

The Hurricane and Tsunami Evacuation Survey has been sent out for City and County of Honolulu, Kauai, and the Big Island.

Please contact Shelly Ichishita at State Civil Defense, (808) 733-4300 or <a href="mailto:AskCivilDefense@scd.hawaii.gov">AskCivilDefense@scd.hawaii.gov</a> if you have any questions regarding the Hurricane and Tsunami Survey.